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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,147	02/11/2004	Ronald J. Darling	RJD7441.003	2146
26629	7590	02/08/2005	EXAMINER	
ZIOLKOWSKI PATENT SOLUTIONS GROUP, LLC (ZPS) 14135 NORTH CEDARBURG ROAD MEQUON, WI 53097			SANTOS, ROBERT G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3673

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/708,147

Applicant(s)

DARLING ET AL.

Examiner

Robert G. Santos

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2004 and on 23 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 6-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02232004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rudes et al. '179. Rudes et al. show the claimed limitations of a lifting apparatus comprising a support bar (38) extendable across and connectable to a frame (30); a power actuator (64) connected to the support bar, wherein the power actuator is at least one of a mechanical, an electrical, a hydraulic, and a pneumatic device (as described in column 4, lines 66-68 and in column 5, lines 1 & 2); an extendable bar (82) pivotally connected to the support bar (through actuator 64); and a guide bar (54) having a generally triangular shaped ramp (96) and constructed to increase a distance from the extendable bar to the guide bar and a rate of incline during extension of the extendable bar (as shown in Figures 3 & 5 and as described in column 5, lines 48-56). As concerns claim 5, the reference also teaches the use of a first set of wheels (89) attached to a first end of the extendable bar and constructed to move along the guide bar.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3 and 6-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base

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claim and any intervening claims. The examiner respectfully asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious to modify the lifting apparatus of Rudes et al. '179 to include the ramp structure as recited in claim 3 or to include a second set of wheels attached to a *second* end of the extendable bar as recited in claims 6-9.

4. Claims 11-28 are allowed. The examiner respectfully asserts that none of the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to teach or suggest the particular structural combination and configuration of a tilting apparatus comprising a transverse frame bar or main support bar, a lifting actuator having a *retractable* shaft connected to the transverse frame bar or main support bar, a pair of guide rails each having a first end connected to the transverse frame bar, a pair of pivot bars each having a first end *pivotably* connected to the transverse frame bar and a second end; and a cross member link connected to the shaft, the link having a first end about which it *rotates* and which is *pivotally* connected to the second end of each of the *pivot bars* and a second end in contact with each of the *guide rails*, as specifically recited in Applicants' independent claims 11, 21 and 26.

Conclusion


5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Mercier et al. '316, Talarico et al. '691 and De Demo '626.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert G. Santos whose telephone number is (703) 308-7469. The examiner can normally be reached on Tues-Fr and first Mondays, 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather C. Shackelford can be reached on (703) 308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Robert G. Santos
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3673

R.S.
February 5, 2005